

LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
HEALTH OF THE WEST KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED
THE REPORT OF THE

Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector

T. W. MAWER, M.I.M. & Cy. E., M. Inst. R.A.,
Cert. R. San. I.

1943

Palmer & Son, Grantham.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector:

T. W. MAWER, M.I.M. & Cy. E., M. Inst. R.A., Cert. R. San. I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

J. DEAN, M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I., A.F.S. (on Active Service).

Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector and

Assistant Surveyor:

D. A. FOSTER (to September, 1943).

Junior Assistant:

A. R. HOLMES (Prisoner of War).

Clerks:

R. P. COX (on Active Service).

S. J. SIMMS do.

P. S. PARKER.

Mrs. Z. FAUST (Part time, from October, 1943).

VINE HOUSE,
GRANTHAM.

September, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

The Report for the year ended 1943 will again be a short one as directed by the Minister of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate for District	16.8	per 1,000	per annum
Average for England & Wales	16.5	„	„
Death Rate	13.3	„	„
Average for England & Wales	12.1	„	„
Infantile Death Rate	48.6	„	„
Average for England & Wales	49.1	„	„

Vital Statistics are seen to approximate the average. An inspection of the causes of death during the year shows no prominent features. Six fatal cases of Influenza occurred during the year, but there were no cases of deaths from the infectious Zymotic Diseases. There was no death from Puerperal Fever, nor were there any notifications of this disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received during the year:

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	18
Diphtheria	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	149
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	8
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	7
Total				199

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever received treatment at the Borough Isolation Hospital. Three of the cases of Diphtheria from a Military Depot were also sent to the Isolation Hospital.

Immunisation of Diphtheria proceeded steadily through the year by local practitioners, and the figures mentioned in the last report of 80 % of school children and 70 % of younger children immunised are reasonably accurate for the present year. Scabies has been less prevalent.

Both cases of Ophthalmia recovered satisfactorily.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and seven cases of the Non-pulmonary form of the disease were notified, and deaths occurred of six patients suffering from Pulmonary Disease, and one death from Non-pulmonary Disease.

The Statistics for Tuberculosis are tabulated in the usual manner.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
35	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...			4	4	3	4	3	3	1	nil

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

**Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
for the Year 1943.**

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
19, WATERGATE,
GRANTHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the West Kesteven
Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1943.

The ever-increasing number of Emergency Duties have been carried out during the year, in addition to the normal routine work of the Public Health and Surveyor's Department.

Every endeavour has been made to carry out the routine sanitary work of the district, three members of the staff being on active service and the Chief Sanitary Inspector also joined the Services in January, the Additional Sanitary Inspector left the service of the Council in September, and the work of the Department had to be carried on for the remainder of the year with the assistance of a part-time clerk and a junior clerk.

I must state that without the assistance rendered by the Clerk of the Council, the help and guidance given by each individual member of the Council, and the co operation readily given by other Departments, and the diligent way in which the staff of the Department have carried out their duties, it would at times have been almost impossible to cope with the volume of work.

It will be appreciated that the report must again be of a somewhat brief nature for many reasons, and it will not be until the conclusion of hostilities that a complete report can be presented of the war period.

I am, Sir, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. W. MAWER.

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections carried out during the year were 1429, details of which are appended in the following table;—

Inspections for Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	217
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress (including re-conditioning of houses under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926)	...	...	...	...	109
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	5
New Buildings (Supervision under the Building Bye-Laws)	...	...	...	...	16
Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	15
Slaughter-houses and Foodshops	...	...	...	...	14
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	3
Cowsheds and Dairies...	...	...	...	...	61
Milk Samples for Analysis ..	...	...	...	...	4
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	225
Samples of Water taken for Analysis...	...	...	...	...	19
Overcrowding, inspections and investigations...	...	...	...	...	2
Council House Repairs, routine inspection and supervision	...	...	...	...	284
Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal	}	...	...	...	126
Sewer Dykes, supervision and cleansing					
Number of Drains inspected	...	...	...	...	37
Number of Drains tested	..	...	...	...	9
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	27
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	...	...	...	...	18
Verminous Premises and Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	14
Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	3
Salvage	...	...	...	...	162
Air Raid Shelters	...	...	...	...	3
Air Raid Precautions...	...	...	...	...	—
Fire Service	...	...	...	...	—
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	17
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	3
Repair of War Damage	...	...	...	...	—
Food Decontamination	...	...	...	...	—
Iron Railings Survey	...	...	...	...	—
Fire Guard	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous Inspections, etc.	...	...	...	...	32
Total					1,429

NOTICES SERVED.

Nine Intimation Notices or letters were sent, dealing with 10 premises.

HOUSING, 1943.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	28
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	52
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	7

2. -Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7
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3. -Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied after service of formal notices	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil

4. —Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV. Overcrowding. (1936 Survey).

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	24
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	24
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	174
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... ..	1
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The work of 1943 has almost entirely consisted of the abatement of nuisances and the execution of essential repairs, in order that a reasonable standard of housing was maintained.

Grants were approved during the year in connection with alterations to two cottages under the (Rural Workers) Act 1926.

The work in connection with the erection of eighteen Agricultural Workers' Cottages in nine Parishes was commenced in August.

WATER SUPPLY.

Constant attention has been paid to the maintenance of the Water Supplies in the various Parishes. The Public Supplies in parts of your District continued satisfactorily, the samples of water submitted to the Public Analyst proved that the supplies were bacteriologically pure. One village supply has a temporary chlorination plant installed, but as the rate of insertion of the chlorine cannot be regulated accurately to the supply required this cannot be regarded as satisfactory, as the water is only at times bacteriologically pure and the public are advised to boil the water before use.

In one Parish, the hydraulic ram used for raising the water failed, and a temporary pump was installed with satisfactory results, and it is hoped to provide a permanent electrically-driven pump as early as possible.

Owing to the dry summer the water in some of the Parishes had to be controlled in order to maintain an adequate supply.

For several years water has been carted to houses in three Parishes, and this system is very unsatisfactory, and it is hoped to provide a more adequate supply in the near future.

The majority of the water supplies in the other villages are obtained from wells, which are usually found to be of the shallow type and must be looked upon with grave suspicion. Examinations of this type of well have been carried out and samples of water taken for analysis.

As the district is not favourably endowed with an abundant supply of water satisfactory for public supplies, a considerable amount of time must be spent in ensuring that the existing supplies are safe. However, the public are apt to overlook the dangers of not boiling water when advised to do so, on the

grounds that the water has been drunk for years by the same family without any harmful effects being observed.

New connections to the Council's public supply were made during the year, as follows:—

Barrowby	...	...	...	3
Claypole, Stubton and Fenton	...		...	2
Colsterworth	...	...	...	7

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Again, attention must be drawn to the two Sewage Disposal Works in your area, both being overloaded, not in proper working condition, and in a very unsatisfactory state generally, as a temporary measure it is proposed to alter one of these Works, but the only solution in my opinion is to instal larger plants.

All the sewer dykes and septic tanks have been cleaned out at intervals, although difficulty was experienced in obtaining the necessary labour.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

A public scavenging scheme throughout your area is very necessary, at present the public have to bury their refuse or deposit it in ditches and on the roadsides.

The collection of salvage has continued throughout the year, one male and one female being employed at the Salvage Depot.

Special thanks are due to the many voluntary helpers, the Rural Members of the Women's Voluntary Services, School Teachers, School Children and members of the Women's Institute for the splendid work they have done in this connection.

I do feel, however, that there is a general decrease in the collection of salvage in most of the villages, particularly in the collection of waste paper.

The amount of salvage sold during the year is as follows:—

Material	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Value		
				£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	46	16	3	330	7	0
Bones	4	2	1	19	11	10
Textiles	3	8	3	45	10	10
Rubber	3	14	0	8	19	6
Ferrous Metal	11	5	2	12	5	2
Non-Ferrous Metal		4	2	5	5	8
Miscellaneous					3	6
				£422	3	6

FOOD SUPPLY.

The whole of the meat required by the Butchers in the Rural Area continues to be dealt with at the Central Slaughter House in the Borough of Grantham by the Ministry of Food.

Periodical inspections have been made of all the food shops in the District.

KNACKER'S YARD.

There are two Knacker's Yards in the District and inspections have been made from time to time and found to be maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition, although one yard on one or two occasions was found to be in a bad state; the necessary instructions were given to the occupier.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The reward scheme for catching rats has continued in operation during the year with success.

The Infestation Order came into force during the year and your Additional Sanitary Inspector attended a course of lectures in Rat and Mice Destruction.

MILK SUPPLY.

359 persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, as Milk Producers, one new registration being made during the year.

Two firms retail Pasteurised Milk in the district.

Periodical inspections have been made during the year and the following defects remedied after informal notice had been served:—

Drainage provided	...	...	...	5
Dairies and Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed				23
Cowshed floors repaired	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds reconstructed	...	...	...	3
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...	7
Additional light and ventilation provided	...			4

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES.

Number in force: (Petroleum)	...	...	25
Number in force (Carbide)	...	...	2
New Petroleum Licences	...	...	1
New Carbide Licences	...	...	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections of the above were carried out as below:—

	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier Prosecuted
Factories	—	—	—
Workshops	15	—	—
Workplaces	—	—	—

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council own 178 houses in various parts of the district, all of which have been maintained in proper order, great difficulty being experienced in obtaining labour to carry out the necessary repairs.

The majority of the houses require painting.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The following plans have been approved and buildings erected by private enterprise during the year.

Houses erected or altered	...	3
Garages, Huts, etc.	...	1
Cowsheds	...	2
Farm Buildings	...	2